



466833

United States
Environmental
Protection
Agency
Region V
230 S. Dearborn St.
Chicago, IL 60604



EPA Environmental NEWS RELEASE

David Taliaferro

FYI

Media Contact: Art Gasior
(312) 886-6128

EPA MEETS WITH POTENTIALLY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES FOR AMERICAN CHEMICAL SERVICES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 5 met today with approximately 800 potentially responsible parties to discuss options available for remedial action at the American Chemical Services, Inc., a Superfund site in Griffith, In. EPA's Regional Council David Taliaferro and EPA's Site Manager Karen Waldvogel met at the Americana Congress Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, with manufacturers, generators, transporters, and handlers of hazardous materials and hope to negotiate an agreement for a Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study.

The American Chemical Service, Inc is a solvent reclamation chemical manufacturing facility located at 420 South Colfax Avenue, Griffith, Indiana. The site has a long and complicated history. They began operating in 1955 as a solvent recovery firm. Later the company began a limited chemical manufacturing operation. American Chemical Services, Inc. disposed of wastes produced during chemical manufacturing and solvent recovery in an open landfill. ACS operated an incinerator at their facility and wastes were deposited in this containment area. General refuse and an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 drums were deposited at the site. These drums reportedly were either empty or partially full of unreclaimable wastes. In 1972 the Indiana State Board of Health (ISBH) responded to complaints from residents of Griffith by inspecting the site. In 1980 the state requested EPA to conduct further investigations and provide information for the Hazard

Ranking System (HRS) under CERCLA. In 1982, U.S. EPA's Field Investigation Team conducted another site investigation and in 1983 the site was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL).

Currently EPA is investigating the existence of potentially responsible parties (PRPs) and plans to negotiate an agreement to conduct remedial study or use the trust fund (Superfund) if no agreement can be reached.

#